

# THE HUMBLE PROPOSALS



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## FRANCIS POYNTZ

His MAJESTIES Tapestry-maker.



IMPORTED of Wooll into England in Tapestry Hangings 100000 *l.* every year, and Employes in Carding, and Spinning, Dying and Weaving the said Hangings 10000 People *per annum*, and carries out of this Nation in Money 10000 *l.* *per annum*.

Now, if there was Incouragement given towards the Making of Tapestry here in England, in Time it might be the Chief Magazine in the World for Tapestry, we having plenty of Wool, which is the best in the World for the making of that Commodity; and, the setting up of that Trade here in England as it might be, would bring these Conveniencies to this Nation.

*First*, It would not only use so much of the Growth of our own Country, as is daily Imported, but also imploy as many of the Kings Subjects, as now it doth abroad of others.

*Secondly*, It would bring in greater Quantities of Silk, which is the only product of our Woollen Manufacture from Turkey, and so consequently make the better for our Clothing Trade here; for, the more Silk comes in, the more Cloth goes out, and so consequently Employes more Hands and Wooll in Carding, and Spinning, and Weaving the said Cloth.

*Thirdly*, It would keep our Money at Home, which daily goes out to fetch in Hangings; and, in time, we shall be the only Manufacturers of that Commodity, bring in more Money from abroad then now it carries out.

*Fourthly*, If this Trade be made Absolute here, then those that use the Trade abroad must of necessity come here with their Wives and Families, and so become the Kings Subjects, to the good of both Landlord and Tenant, by using and expending the growth of our Country.

*Now the Way to bring this to Pass, is,*

- I. If the King shall please to give the same encouragement to the Workmen and their Families, as the French King hath to his Workmen.
- II. Either by Prohibiting, or else Imposing a greater Custome, or Imposition, upon all Forreign Hangings, which will make their Work so dear here, as that whilst ours is in its Infancy, it will grow the better, and theirs, in time, be quite ruined.
- III. The Affairs at present gives better opportunity then ever, by reason the French King having drayn'd great numbers of Workmen out of his Conquer'd Countries, and planted them in France, to make that the Staple of the World for Tapestry, giving them great Immunities; but, in regard of his Wars abroad, and not performing with them accordingly, they are reduced to so meane a condition, that they would be very willing to remove and settle themselves here at any rates,
- IV. The Stormes that threaten Flanders, which is the great Magazine in the World, for ordinary Tapestry, doth now so amuse the People, that were there but a Stock to Employ 1000 Workmen, both they and their Families would come over by the Writing of a Letter.
- V. That at Colchester, Canterbury, and Exeter, there are at least 100000 Subjects that are employed in Carding, Combing, and Spinning, and Dying, and Weaving of Bays, Sayes, and Serges, which Originally were Walloons, and we are now the only People of the World that makes that Commodity. And, if Tapestry was here Incouraged, as those things have been, we might be the only Nation to furnish the whole World to make that Commodity, we having the best Wool to make that Commodity, and having Provisions cheaper here by far, than they have, where the greatest part of the Hangings are made, that is Imported into England.
- VI. That at the Setting up of these Trades of Bayes, Sayes, and Serges at first, there was not the tenth part of these People came over, but as the Trade increas'd here, theirs decay'd there, and the rest was necessitated to come over, because their Trade was lost there.